

Application No: 10/690,351
Filed: October 21, 2003

Atty. Docket: OP-11-1

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising a first configuration and second configuration, said first configuration characterized by a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone, said body having an outer peripheral wall extending substantially completely about said longitudinal axis and defining an inner lumen, said body including a plurality of spaced slits disposed about said outer peripheral wall, each of said slits having a length, wherein a distance x between two adjacent slits at a first location along the length of each of the slits is smaller than a distance y between said two adjacent slits at a second location along the length of each of the slits; and said second configuration characterized by said outer peripheral wall being radially enlarged such that said apparatus has a larger cross-section in said second configuration than in said first configuration.
2. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said slits each comprise an end, said first location being proximate to an end of each of the adjacent slits and the second location being in a middle region of each of the adjacent slits.
3. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at an end thereof.
4. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said slits further comprises an angled surface at each end thereof, each of said angled surfaces extending depthwise into a wall forming said body.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said body comprises a generally cylindrical body, and said peripheral wall comprises an outer circumferential wall.
6. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits are generally parallel to said longitudinal axis.

Application No: 10/690,351
Filed: October 21, 2003

Atty. Docket: OP-11-1

7. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits each lie at an acute angle relative to said longitudinal axis.

8.(Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein said acute angle is between 0 and 45 degrees.

9. (Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said plurality of spaced slits comprises at least six slits.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, said bone having a bone surface, comprising a body having a longitudinal axis, a proximal end, and a distal end, which is adapted to be inserted into a bone such that the proximal end remains within said bone and below the bone surface, said body having an outer peripheral wall extending substantially completely about said longitudinal axis and defining an inner lumen, said body including a plurality of spaced slits disposed about said outer peripheral wall, each of said slits having a length and an angled surface at an end thereof, extending depthwise into a wall forming said body.

12.(Original) The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein each of said slits has an angled surface at each end thereof, extending depthwise into said wall.

13-20. (Canceled)

21. (currently amended) A method of fabricating an apparatus for attaching connective tissue to bone, comprising:

providing a tubular member comprising a proximal end, an anchor body, and a distal end wherein said proximal end comprises a cross section equal to or less than that of said anchor body; and

making a pattern of a bone anchor using a bio-compatible material; forming a plurality of spaced slits across a width of said pattern, such that an end of each of said slits includes an angled surface extending depthwise into said pattern; and fabricating said pattern into said [[an]] anchor body.

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22. (Original) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein said forming step further comprises forming an angled surface extending depthwise into said pattern at each end of each of said slits.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 21, wherein said forming step further comprises forming said slits such that adjacent ones of said slits are closer together at a first location along a length thereof and farther apart at a second location along said length.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein when said body is placed in compression, regions of said outer wall between adjacent ones of said spaced slits expand radially to extend into adjacent bone.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a suture retaining feature such that a suture may be connected with said apparatus to connect tissue to said bone.